

THE  
GENERAL EXERCISE

Ordered by His HIGHNESS the

Prince of Orange,

To be punctually observed of all the Infantry  
in Service of the

STATES GENERAL  
OF THE  
United Provinces.

BEING

A most VVerthy Compendium, very useful  
for all persons concerned in that Noble  
EXERCISE of ARMS.

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*2 Sam. 22. 40. For thou hast girded me with strength to Battel; them  
that rose up against me, hast thou subdued under me.*

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THE  
OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF THE  
NAVY

WASHINGTON, D. C.  
JANUARY 1, 1900

TO THE  
HONORABLE  
MEMBERS OF THE  
NAVY

AND  
THE  
OFFICERS OF THE  
NAVY

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**GENERAL EXERCISE**

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To be punctually observed of all the Infantry in Service of the  
*States General* of the United Provinces.

*General Observations.*

I.

**I**T must be understood that before the Exercise begin, the Officers at the first Advertisement by ruck of Drum advancing their Pikes, shall turn about to the right; and upon the second, march through the Battalion, ranging themselves in the Rear, in the same order they were upon the Front; the Sergeants, who were posted behind the Battalion, separating themselves to the right and left, shall take their places upon the Flanks till the Exercise be done, and the Officers shall have taken their former Post upon the Front at the forementioned Advertisement by ruck of Drum, at which time the said Sergeants shall also return to the Rear as before.

II.

The Drummers shall stay upon the Wings of the Battalion during the Exercise, excepting those that are in the Center before the Pikes, who in the time that the Officers march through to the Rear, shall range themselves behind the Major, to be alwayes ready either for giving Advertisements, or in case the Battalion might be exercised by ruck of Drum.

III.

No man shall offer to stir or make the least motion till the Word of Command be fully pronounced, and then to perform what shall be commanded with a graceful, readiness, and quick motion, all at the same time.

A 2

IV.



#### IV.

Having his Musket shouldered, must stand straight upon his Limbs, keep his Head, and look alwayes to the commanding Officer, making no Motion, but such as shall be ordered, which must be observed as a general Rule in all Commands.

#### V.

The Souldiers must keep their Feet a small pace distant from each other, their Heels straight in a line, and their Toes turned outwardly, holding their Muskets with their left hand upon their left Shoulder, the Thumb in the hollow above the Butt, holding the Iron which covers the Drawer close to the Shoulder, that the Muzzel of the Musket behind may stand somewhat high, turning the Lock a little outward, so that the Butt may come to the Butrons, or middle of the Breast, and the Muskets over all be the more equally carried.

#### VI.

The Match must be holden in the left hand, one end betwixt the first and the second finger, and the other betwixt the two last, both the ends a finger length without the back of the hand, so that the rest thereof may hang betwixt the hand and the Butt of the Musket; and because in exercising the Match is to be laid down no more, it must never be kindled without express Order.

#### VII.

With a shouldered Musket the left Elbow ought to be turned a little outwards from the Body, but without constraint of the Arm, and the right Arm hanging loose downwards along the Body, with the Palm of the Hand turned to the Thigh.

#### *The Manual of the Muskets:*

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>J</b>Open your right hand to your Muskets.</li> <li>2. <b>P</b>olce your Muskets.</li> <li>3. <b>J</b>Open your left hand to your Muskets.</li> <li>4. <b>T</b>ake your Matches.</li> <li>5. <b>B</b>low your Matches.</li> <li>6. <b>C</b>ock your Matches.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. <b>T</b>ry your Matches.</li> <li>8. <b>G</b>uard your Pans.</li> <li>9. <b>B</b>low your Matches.</li> <li>10. <b>O</b>pen your Pans in presenting.</li> <li>11. <b>G</b>ive Fire.</li> <li>12. <b>R</b>ecover your Arms.</li> <li>13. <b>R</b>eturn your Matches.</li> <li>14. <b>B</b>low your Pans.</li> <li>15. <b>H</b>andle your Primers.</li> <li>16. <b>P</b>rimers.</li> </ol> |
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17. Shut your Hams.
18. Blow off your loose Corns.
19. Cast about to charge.
20. Handle your Chargers.
21. Open them with your Teeth.
22. Charge with Powder.
23. Charge with Bullet.
24. Wadd from your Hats.
25. Draw forth your Scowlers.
26. Hold them up.
27. Shorten them to your Breasts.
28. Put them in the Barrels.
29. Ram down your Shot.
30. Withdraw your Scowlers.
31. Hold them up.
32. Shorten them to your Breasts.
33. Put them up in their places.
34. Join your right hand to your Muskets.
35. Poise your Muskets.
36. Shoulder your Muskets.
37. Rest your Muskets.
38. Order your Muskets.
39. Lay down your Muskets.
40. Take up your Muskets.
41. Rest your Muskets.
42. Club your Muskets.
43. Rest your Muskets.
44. Shoulder your Muskets.

*Take heed to make ready by three  
Words of Command.*

1. Make ready.
2. Present.
3. Give Fire.

*Here follows the manner  
of making ready by three  
words, beginning from the  
order'd Fire-lock.*

1. **J**oin your right hand to your Fire-locks.
2. Poise your Fire-locks.
3. Join your left hand to your Fire-locks.
4. Bend your Fire-locks.
5. Present.
6. Give Fire.
7. Recover your Arms.
8. Handle your Slings.
9. Sling your Fire-locks upon your Shoulders.
10. Take your Patches.
11. Take your Grenades.
12. Open the Grenade Fuse.
13. Guard the Grenade Fuse with your Thumbs.
14. Blow your Patches.
15. Fire & deliver your Grenades.
16. Return your Patches.
17. Handle your Slings.
18. Poise your Fire-locks.
19. Cast about your Fire-locks to the left side.
20. Draw your Daggers.
21. Scrub your Daggers in the Puzzle of your Fire-locks.
22. Rest your Daggers.
23. Charge your Daggers the butt to the right knee.
24. Stand up again, and rest your Daggers.

25. Cast about your Daggers to  
the left side.

26. Withdraw your Daggers.

27. Put up your Daggers.

28. Half-bend your Fire-locks.

29. Blow your Pans.

30. Handle your Primers.

31. Prime.

32. Shut your Pans.

33. Cast about to Charge.

34. Handle your Cartridges.

35. Open your Cartridges.

36. Charge your Cartridges.

37. Draw forth your Scowlers.

38. Hold them up.

39. Shorten them to your Breasts.

40. Put them in the Barrels.

41. Ram down your Shot.

42. Withdraw your Scowlers.

43. Hold them up.

44. Shorten them to your Breasts.

45. Put them up in their places.

46. Turn your right hand to your  
Fire-locks.

47. Poise your Fire-locks.

48. Shoulder your Fire-locks.

49. Rest your Fire-locks.

50. Order your Fire-locks.

51. Lay down your Fire-locks.

52. Take up your Fire-locks.

53. Rest your Fire-locks.

54. Club your Fire-locks.

55. Rest your Fire-locks.

56. Shoulder your Fire-locks.

*Take heed you be ready to give fire  
by three Words of Command.*

1. Make ready.

2. Present.

3. Give Fire.

*Take heed ye be ready to fire your  
Grenades by three Words of  
Command.*

1. Make ready.

2. Blow your Match.

3. Fire, and deliver your Grenades.

*Take heed ye be ready to use your  
Daggers by three Words of  
Command.*

1. Make ready.

2. Charge your Daggers, the Butt  
against the right knee.

3. Rest your Daggers.

*Take heed to make your Fire-locks  
ready again.*

Make ready your Fire-locks.

*Here follows the Manual of the Pike, beginning from the  
Advance.*

**T**He posture of the Pike-man with his Pike advanced, must be the same as the  
Muskierers with a shoulder'd Musket, viz: that he stand straight upon his  
Limbs



Limbs, holding up his head, looking briskly, with his Eye always turned towards the Commanding Officer, and making no other motions than the Commands do bear, that he keep his Feet a small pace distant from each other, his Heels in a straight Line, his Toes turn'd outwardly, and holding the Butt-end of the Pike in his right hand, stretched downwards along his Body to the full length, so that the back of his hand be turn'd so much outwardly, as his Arm in such posture can suffer without constraint, and the Pike be kept close, as well to his shoulder, as the outside of his Thigh, that it may stand straight upwards, without inclining to either hand, which posture must be always observed with an advanced Pike.

1. Charge to the Front.
2. As you were.
3. Charge to the right.
4. To the left, as you were.
5. Charge to the left.
6. To the right, as you were.
7. To the right about charge.
8. To the left, as you were.
9. To the left about charge.
10. To the right, as you were.
11. Shoulder your Pikes.
12. Charge to the Front.
13. Shoulder as you were.
14. Charge to the right.
15. To the left, as you were.
16. Charge to the left.
17. To the right, as you were.
18. To the right about charge.
19. To the left, as you were.

20. To the left about charge.
21. To the right as you were.
22. Port your Pikes.
23. Charge to the Front.
24. Trail your Pikes the Spear behind.
25. Charge, as you were.
26. Push your Pikes.
27. Trail your Pikes the Spear before.
28. Present your Spears.
29. Charge to the Front.
30. Advance your Pikes.
31. Order your Pikes.
32. Lay down your Pikes.
33. Take up your Pikes.
34. Plant your Pikes.
35. Order your Pikes.
36. Advance your Pikes.

## Here follow the Evolutions.

### General Words of Command.

#### I. Take heed.

**A**T the pronouncing of this Word, there must be great Silence observed throughout the whole Battalion, the Souldiers doing no motions, neither with their Heads,

Heads, Bodies, Hands or Feet; but such as shall be ordered, and faithfully to the commanding Officer, as hath been said above concerning the March.

2. Carry well your Arms. 3. Dress your Ranks and your Files.

*Evolutions with Muskets and Pikes together.*

1. Present your Arms.

2.

1. To the right.

2. To the right.

3. To the right.

4. To the right.

3. To the right about.

4. To the left, as you were.

5.

1. To the left.

2. To the left.

3. To the left.

4. To the left.

6. To the left about.

7. To the right, as you were.

8. Poise your Muskets, and advance your pikes.

9. Shoulder your Muskets.

*Take heed to double your Ranks to the Front*

10. To the right, double your Ranks to the Front.

11. March.

**H**ere it must be observed, as also by all other Marches, that all the Souldiers of the same Rank make the first step with the left foot, lifting all at the same time, to the end that marching softly, looking continually to the sides, more especially to the right, they may keep the Rank straight, and come upon their places altogether stepping, so that with four paces they may enter the Rank that is before them, having special care to carry their Arms well, hold up their Head, keep their Bodies in a straight and unconstrained posture, and look briskly.

12. To the left, as you were.

13. March.

14. Halt.

15. To the left, double your Ranks to the Front.

16. March.

17. To the right, as you were.

18. March.

19. Halt.

*Take heed to double your Ranks to the Rear.*

20. To the right about, double your Ranks to the Rear.



23. As you were.

24. March.

25. To the left about, double your Ranks to the Rear.

26. March.

27. Halt.

28. As you were.

29. March.

*Take heed by half Files to double your Ranks to the Front.*

30. To the right, by half Files double your Ranks to the Front.

31. March.

32. To the left, as you were.

33. March.

34. Halt.

35. To the left by half Files, double your Ranks to the Front.

36. March.

37. To the right, as you were.

38. March.

39. Halt.

*Take heed by half Files to double your Ranks to the Rear.*

40. To the right about by half Files double your Ranks to the Rear.

41. March.

42. Halt.

43. As you were.

44. March.

45. To the left about by half Files double your Ranks to the Rear.

46. March.

47. Halt.

48. As you were.

49. Halt.

*Take heed to double your Files.*

50. To the right double your Files.

51. March.

52. Halt.

53. To the left as you were.

54. March.

55. To the left, double your Files.

56. March.

57. Halt.

58. To the right, as you were.

59. March.

*Take heed to double your Files by half Ranks.*

60. By half Ranks to the right, double your Files.

61. March.

62. Halt.

63. To the left as you were.

64. March.

65. Halt.

66. By half Ranks to the left double your Files.

67. March.

68. Halt.

69. To the right, as you were.

70. March.

71. Halt.

B

Every

Every File must double its Files in it self, and the old File must stand on its ground.

W/60 Take heed to contre-march by Files.

72. By Files to the right about, contre-march.

73. March.

74. By Files to the left about, contre-march.

75. March.

Take heed to contre-march by Ranks.

76. By Ranks to the right, contre-march.

77. March.

78. Halt.

79. By Ranks to the left, contre-march.

80. March.

81. Halt.

Take heed to close your Files.

82. From the right and left, close your Files to the Center.

83. March.

84. Halt.

Take heed to close your Ranks.

85. Close your Ranks to the Front.

86. March.

Take heed to the wheel.

87. Wheel to the right,

88. March.

89. Halt.

90. Wheel to the right.

91. March.

92. Halt.

93. To the right about.

94. March.

95. Halt.

96. Wheel to the left.

97. March.

98. Halt.

99. Wheel to the left.

100. March.

101. Halt.

102. To the left about, wheel.

103. March.

104. Halt.

Take heed to put your Ranks and Files at their former distance.

105. Files to the right and left, take your former distances,

106. March.

107. Halt.

Take heed to put your Ranks at the former distances.

108. Ranks, as you were.

109. March.

110. Halt.

Take heed to lay down your Arms.

111. Rest your Muskets.

112. Order your Arms.

113. Lay down your Arms.

Take heed to quit your Arms.

114. For Scram.

115. March.

116. To your Arms.

117. Put up your Swords.

118. Take up your Arms.

119. Rest your Muskets.

120. Doffe your Muskets, and advance your Pikes,

121. Shoulder your Muskets.